

Meeting Summary of the Senate Bill 375 **Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC)**

Wednesday, March 04, 2009
Hearing Room A
California Energy Commission Building
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Discussion Highlights

Suggested Additions to Key Questions

RTAC discussed and edited ARB staff's suggested key questions. Revisions will be posted separately.

Speaker Suggestions

Staff discussed a suggested work plan for the next several months and introduced the discussion on factors influencing the magnitude of change in the land use and transportation sectors. RTAC members recommended five presentation topics to assist in the RTAC discussions. Suggested speakers would consist of an economist to discuss the broad market conditions and economy, a developer to discuss urban infill and master-planned communities, an alternative transportation expert, someone to discuss the co-benefits of air quality and economic growth, and a local government representative to discuss infrastructure and financing challenges.

RTAC members suggested the following individuals:

- Jeff Tumlin, Nelson Nygaard Consulting of San Francisco
- Robert D. Yaro, Project: America 2050
- Steve Winkelman, Center for Clean Air Policy
- Emil Frankel, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Stephen Levy, Center for the Continuing Study of the CA Economy (Palo Alto)
- Speaker from UCLA Anderson School of Management
- Chris Thornberg, Beacon Economics

Data and Modeling Assessment:

Staff presented an update on efforts by the MPOs to describe current modeling capabilities. RTAC suggested continued efforts by MPOs to improve the MPO modeling assessment survey, and requested additional discussion at the April meeting relating to the relationship between SB375 and existing air quality modeling. RTAC also requested that ARB staff outline any preliminary thoughts on target setting approaches, and convene a panel of experts to explore empirical data relating to land use and transportation strategies to reduce greenhouse gases.

RTAC members discussed four objectives related to modeling improvement efforts and provided comments on each.

- Accuracy – incorporate review by State, universities, or contractors.
- Consistency – develop consistency between: SB375 implementation and regional transportation plans; largely populated areas and rural counties; modeling approaches and budget settings; and across regions.
- Transparency – address statewide modeling capabilities; agree on the methodologies, inventories, and input assumptions used for modeling purposes; consider public comprehension of models; confirm establishment of mechanism to achieve targets prior to setting targets.
- Sensitivity – provide fair representation of all regions regardless of demographics; establish appropriate way to account for wide variation of model sophistication; review model capability to integrate newly established policies.

RTAC discussed and edited the guiding principles from the February 23, 2009 meeting. Revisions will be posted online separately.

Public Comment Highlights

There were four individuals who offered public comment. Their comments included the following observations and suggestions:

- The Bay Area Open Space vegetation mapping project could assist modeling efforts by monitoring greenhouse gas levels and carbon sequestration; the survival of key species has been proven to indicate climate change.
- RTAC meetings should be held on a day other than Tuesday, and possibly in Southern California, as there are scheduling conflicts.
- Public health is one of the major co-benefits of SB375.
- There is a statewide transportation and land development model under development at UC Davis. VMT modeling requires annual odometer readings, and retail fuel sales tax data should also be gathered (to calibrate models).
- One commenter suggested a target-setting methodology for RTAC. Staff has requested the commenter provide additional detail.

RTAC Requests to Staff

RTAC members made some administrative suggestions for ARB staff, including:

- Explicitly invite MPOs to the RTAC working group meetings.
- Prior to meetings, send background materials and public comments to members.
- Re-poll RTAC panel members on schedules and availability.
- Structure the agenda to allow public comments both before an item is acted on, and at meeting end.

- Provide meeting summaries from past RTAC meetings in advance of the next RTAC meeting.

Members present:

Cohen, S.

Eaken, A.

Katz, R.

Parkinson, P.

Wallerstein, B.

Dickinson, R.

Gallegos, G.

Leahy, A.

Parks, L.

Walters, J.

Doyle, S.

Heminger, S.

Libicki, S.

Rawson, M.

Wunderman, J.

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